

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE  
DECLARATION OF CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE**

**PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS 3, 4, AND 5  
DATE OF DECLARATION: JANUARY 24, 2022**

The Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (the “Department”) is authorized by Idaho Code § 56-1003(3) to exercise general supervision and promotion and protection of the health of Idahoans. Further, pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code § 56-1003(2), the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare approved the Crisis Standards of Care for Health Care Entities contained in IDAPA 16.02.09.

Crisis standards of care provide guidelines that help healthcare providers and systems decide how to deliver the best care possible under the extraordinary circumstances of an overwhelming disaster or public health emergency. The guidelines are used when there are not enough healthcare resources to provide the usual standard of care to people who need it. The goal of crisis standards of care is to extend care to as many patients as possible and save as many lives as possible.

Implementation of crisis standards of care (CSC) are meant to be a measure of last resort. Activation of the crisis standards of care means that all other options for addressing resource limitations have been explored.

The following conditions exist which support activating CSC:

The number of Idaho’s COVID-19 positive cases continuously rise to unprecedented levels. The omicron variant is highly transmissible as shown by the dramatic increase in Idaho’s positivity rates as well as number of reported cases. Healthcare facilities, particularly those in the Southwest, Central, and South Central Health Districts, are struggling to meet demands and are facing severe resource shortages including staff and blood products.

Saint Alphonsus, one of the largest healthcare providers in these districts, requested the activation of CSC on January 21, 2022. In its request, it highlighted its need to implement blood conservation strategies due to nation-wide blood shortages. Saint Alphonsus further reported that even using these conservation strategies, its supply will likely not be able to meet emergency and critical patient demand. Saint Alphonsus, like many healthcare providers, is facing severe staffing shortages despite hiring additional contract nurses, canceling non-urgent surgical procedures, and adjusting its contingency level of care to accommodate various surges throughout this pandemic.

The Crisis Standard of Care Activation Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) convened on January 21, 2022 and recommended the activation of CSC statewide; however, CSC will only be activated in the Southwest, Central, and South Central Health Districts (Districts 3, 4, and 5) at this time. The situation in the healthcare systems for the rest of the state remains very fragile and will continue to be monitored daily.

**Therefore, pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.09:**

1. Crisis Standards of Care are activated in Public Health Districts 3, 4, and 5.
2. Healthcare entities may implement CSC as needed and in accordance to their own CSC policies.
3. Affected healthcare entities are recommended to consult with the guidance in the Crisis Standards of Care Plan and the Patient Care Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations, both of

which are housed on the state's COVID-19 website, [www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/](http://www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/).

4. The Department and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management will continue to work closely with healthcare entities that have implemented crisis standards of care to receive resource requests and continue to pursue all options for obtaining those resources as urgently as possible.

**IT IS SO DECLARED:**



DAVE JEPPESEN, DIRECTOR  
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Dated: January 24, 2022